

Key Concepts				<p><u>Jewish Festivals: Rosh Hashanah & Yom Kippur</u></p> <p>There are many festivals in the Jewish calendar. Most remember a great event in Jewish history. They provide an opportunity to build a relationship with God. They build Jewish identity as families and communities come together. Both the origins of the festivals and the actions carried out in the festivals are important for Jewish people today.</p>
Shekinah	The dwelling or divine presence of God often shown as a cloud.	Messiah	The promised deliverer of the Jewish nation. The word means ‘anointed one’	
Synagogue	A building or place of meeting for worship in the Jewish faith	Covenant	A promise or an agreement. Covenants were made between God, Abraham and Moses.	<p><u>Sources of Authority</u></p> <p>“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth”. Genesis</p> <p>“On the first day of the seventh month hold a sacred assembly and do no regular work. It is a day for you to sound the trumpets” Numbers</p> <p>"The tenth day is the Day of Atonement. Hold a sacred assembly and deny yourselves, and present an offering to the LORD. “ Leviticus</p>
Shabbat (Sabbath)	The Jewish day of rest and seventh day of the week	Mitzvot	Actions that Jews must perform or avoid. There are 613 including the Ten Commandments	
Kosher	Means ‘clean’ or ‘fit’. It describes food that is okay to eat for Jewish people.	Torah	The Jewish written law and the first 5 books of the Hebrew Bible	

Rosh Hashanah	Rosh Hashanah is the Jewish New Year it means “head” or beginning the year. It is a time for Jewish people to think about what they have done right and wrong over the past year and to look forward to the year ahead. It is also a time to recall the story of creation in Genesis and celebrate belief in God as creator. In Jewish homes, wine is blessed and slices of apple dipped in honey are eaten. Challah (bread) is also eaten but the challah is round to represent the cycle of the year. A shofar horn is blown 100 times. Later in the day Jews say special prayers at a stream or river. This is called ‘tashlikh’ which means ‘casting away’. Crumbs from the challah are thrown into the water representing the sins thrown away.
Yom Kippur	Yom Kippur comes ten days after Rosh Hashanah. It is considered to be the holiest day of the year. Yom Kippur is known as the ‘Day of Atonement’ which means it is the day when Jews ask God for forgiveness. Yom Kippur dates back to the time of the Temple and Jewish people would visit the Temple in Jerusalem and offer a small sacrifice to God to atone (seek forgiveness). It is a holy and solemn (sacred & serious) day. It is traditional for Jewish people to wear white clothing and many will spend a large part of the day in the synagogue in prayer and reflection. The doors of the Holy Ark (Aron Kadesh) are open to symbolise that God is present. It is a day of fasting and Jewish people will go without food for 25 hours. before Yom Kippur many Jews visit a mikveh (a pool of natural water) for a spiritual cleaning. The rules of Shabbat apply, however, so does pikuach nefesh.
Importance of Rosh Hashanah	Rosh Hashanah is important to Jews because it is the celebration of the Jewish New Year. On Rosh Hashanah Jews celebrate God creating the world. The book of Genesis teaches that God created the world in six days and on the seventh God rested. It is also important to Jews because along with Yom Kippur, it is looked upon as being one of Judaism’s ‘High Holy Days’. This means that Rosh Hashanah is a festival that should be celebrated by all Jews above all others. Most Orthodox Jews will consider ways in which they can fulfil the covenant and be observant to the Torah and Mitzvot.
Importance of Yom Kippur	Yom Kippur is important to Jewish people because along with Rosh Hashanah, it is looked upon as one of Judaism’s ‘High Holy Days.’ It is also important as it is looked upon as the holiest day of the year for Jewish people. All Jewish people are expected to attend the synagogue on this day and seek forgiveness for their sins. Yom Kippur is important because it is referred to as the ‘Sabbath of Sabbaths’. Even Jews who do not always follow Sabbath laws throughout the year will try to do so on this day. Yom Kippur is important because the Torah commands it (see sources above).

<p><u>Exam Practice</u></p> <p>b) Describe the origin and meaning of Rosh Hashanah (5)</p>
